

Recovering the Plays of Māyurāja

Andrew Ollett and Naresh Keerthi 🌸 Dec. 3, 2025 🌸 IIC

- (1) उत्सर्पद्भूमलेखात्विषि तमसि मनाविस्फुलिङ्गायमानै
रुद्धेदैस्तारकाणां वियति परिगते पश्चिमाशामुपेतैः ।
खेदेनेवानतासु स्वलदलिरशनास्वब्जिनीप्रेयसीषु
प्रायः सन्ध्यातपाग्नौ विशति दिनपतौ दह्यते वासरश्रीः ॥ (तापसवत्सराज १.२१)

Subhāṣitaratnakōṣa 867 [*Mahāsubhāṣitasāṅgraha* 6653]

Darkness sidles into the sky, a roiling plume of smoke.
Faint stars appear in the west, or are they flashing sparks?
As king Sun enters the pyre of twilight, his lovers,
the lotus plants, are all downcast as if with pain,
and their belts, the bees, are slipping away,
and the splendor of day: she too burns.

- (2) आदौ मानपरिग्रहेण गुरुणा दूरं समारोपितां
पश्चात्तापभरेण तानवकृता नीतां परं लाघवम् ।
उत्सङ्गान्तरवर्तिनीमनुगमात्सम्पिण्डिताङ्गीमिमां
सर्वाङ्गप्रणयां प्रियामिव तरुश्र्छायां समालम्बते ॥ (तापसवत्सराज ३.१७)

Subhāṣitaratnakōṣa 983, *Subhāṣitāvalī* 215, [*Mahāsubhāṣitasāṅgraha* 4765]; *Nāṭyadarpaṇa* p. 31

At first, she kept quite a distance, so angry she was,
but then she grew quite thin from her exacting suffering.
Finally it's as if she withdraws all of her own limbs
to sit in his lap: the tree treats its shadow
as a woman he loves with all his heart.

- (3) जीयन्ते जयिनोऽपि सान्द्रतिमिरव्रातैर्वियद्भ्यापिभि-
स्तीव्रांशोः सकलाः कठोरितरुचः कस्मादकस्मादमूः ।
एताश्चोग्रकबन्धरन्ध्ररुधिरैराध्मायमानोदरा
मुञ्चन्त्याननकन्दरानलमुचः क्रूरान् रवान् फेरवाः ॥ (उदात्तराघव २.२४)

How is it that all of the sun's rays, bright as they were
and stretching out all across the sky,
have suddenly been eclipsed by a mass of dense darkness?
And now the jackals that have stuffed themselves with blood
from the open wounds of mutilated corpses are letting out
awful howls, spitting fire from their cavernous jaws.

- (4) मैनाकः किमयं रुणद्धि गगने मन्मार्गमव्याहतं
शक्तिस्तस्य कुतः स वज्रपतनाद्भीतो महेन्द्रादपि ।
ताक्षर्यः सोऽपि समं निजेन विभुना जानाति मां रावणं
हाः ज्ञातं स जटायुरेष जरसा क्लिष्टो वधं वाञ्छति ॥ (उदात्तराघव २.३१)

Daśarūpaka p. 184, *Sarasvatīkaṇṭhābharāṇa* p. 370, *Śṛṅgāprakāśa* p. 579, *Hanumannāṭaka*

Is this Maināka who is now blocking my course
in the sky, which nobody could stop before?
But where could he get the strength?
He is afraid that Indra's thunderbolt will fall upon him.
Garuḍa and his master know that I am Rāvaṇa.
I know. It must be Jaṭāyu, the old wretch,
who wants me to kill him.

- (5) उत्कम्पिनी भयपरिस्खलितांशुकान्ता
ते लोचने प्रतिदिशं विधुरे क्षिपन्ती ।
क्रूरेण दारुणतया सहसैव दग्धा
धूमन्धितेन दहनेन न वीक्षितासि ॥ (तापसवत्सराज २.१६)

Dhvanyalōka 3.4, *Vyaktivivēka* p. 504, *Kāvyaṇṅgāśa* 7.187, *Kāvyaṇṅgāśa* p. 82, *Alaṅkāramahōdadhi* p. 150

Trembling in fear, your veil slipping down,
casting those helpless eyes everywhere —
the wicked fire, blinded by smoke, couldn't have seen you
when it ruthlessly burned you in an instant.